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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the accounting quantity for the accounting method is calculated based on the accounting method and not a plurality of accounting methods. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

In the office action Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,303,297 to Hillis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,956 to Ehlers et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,853,990 to Thiel. Further, the office action rejects Claims 1-2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hillis in view of Ehlers et al. and Thiel, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,754 to Kikuchi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of the references cited by the office action fail either singularly or in combination to teach each and every aspect of the instant invention, and particularly independent claim 1.

Claim 1 recites in pertinent part:

displaying on the terminal device the obtained accounting quantity for each accounting method for the portion of the communication service already received during the process of utilizing the communication service

To teach this feature, the Examiner has relied upon Thiel. However, the relied upon portions of Thiel, only describe a user "preselecting" between carriers and accounting methods

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before franking postage. Therefore, the combination of references cited by the Examiner would, at most, suggest a user pre-selecting a carrier and accounting method. But there is no teaching or suggestion of displaying each calculation result during the process of utilizing the communication service for the portion of the communication service already received.

Moreover, as discussed above, Thiel teaches only that an accounting based on a combination of a carrier and accounting method that has been pre-selected by the user is executed and displayed. In contrast, independent claim 1 recites:

where the accounting quantity for each of the plurality of accounting methods is calculated based on the accounting method and the portion of the communication service already received

Thiel fails to teach or suggest the display of a plurality of calculation results corresponding to the plurality of accounting methods in the portion of the communication service already received.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. That is, the combination of Hillis, Ehlers, Thiel, and Kikuchi fail either singularly or in combination to teach each and every aspect of the instant invention. Therefore independent claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-7 which depend from independent claim 1 are allowable therewith.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

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this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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